

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TAGS: UNGA, AORG, (UNDRO), SWEL

SUBJ: 30TH GA, AGENDA ITEM 63 - POSSIBLE INITIATIVE TO
CREATE AN EXPERTS PANEL TO ADVISE UNDRO

REF: STATE 242141

1. SUMMARY: MISSION CONCURS WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH
INTENT DEVELOP MECHANISM "KEEP UNDRO ON THE TRACKS,"
AND SHARES DEPT'S CONCERN SUCH WORTHY INITIATIVE
COULD UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES RESULT IN CREATION
OVERSIZED, POLITICIZED AND COSTLY BUREAUCRATIC
ENCUMBRANCE THAT WOULD DO LITTLE INCREASE EFFECTIVE-
NESS DISASTER RELIEF ORGANIZATION. RECOGNIZING
THAT DEPT MAY CONSIDER IT POLITIC SUPPORT SUCH STEPS
AS OUTLINED REFTTEL, MISSION NEVERTHELESS CONSIDERS
THAT OUR EMPHASIS AS BEFITS THAT OF MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR
SHOULD BE PLACED PRIMARILY ON URGING UNDRO TO ASSUME
POSITIVE FORWARD-LOOKING POSTURE IN ITS OPERATIONAL
APPROACH TO COORDINATING DISASTER RELIEF AND PRE-DISASTER
MATTERS
IN FASHION CONSISTENT WITH US INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

2. MISSION AGREES THAT NEED EXISTS FOR UNDRO HAVE
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AVAILABLE EXPERT ADVICE ON AD HOC BASIS TO REVIEW

OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS OF ACTION-ORIENTED ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY UNDRO IN COORDINATING RELIEF EFFORTS. EMPHASIS HERE SHOULD BE PRIMARILY ON EXPERTISE FROM SEVERAL SOURCES, E.G. UN MEMBER COUNTRIES, ICRC, UNHCR, OR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, TO ADVISE UNDRO ON IDENTIFIED PROBLEM AREAS DIRECTLY RELATING TO ITS OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

3. MISSION SEES MERIT IN ESTABLISHING SOME SORT OF MONITORING ACTIVITY OVER UNDRO PROGRAMS BUT CAUTIONS WHETHER IMPLICIT REFERENCE IN PROPOSED GA RES WOULD DO THE JOB. WE SAY THIS BECAUSE UNDRO HERE SEEMS TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPERT PANEL AS VEHICLE FOR SUPPORT ITS VIEWS IN UN FORUMS AS A SORT OF FRIEND IN COURT RATHER THAN AS A MEANS OF MONITORING ITS OPERATIONS.

4. IF UN ADVISORY PANEL SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED REFTEL CREATED, UNDRO OFFICE HERE SEEMS BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD ALMOST INEVITABLY BE LARGER THAN RECOMMENDED 7-9 MEMBERS. THIS ASSUMPTION BASED, ONE GATHERS, ON FACT THAT POLITICAL PRESSURES WOULD REQUIRE AT LEAST AS MUCH REPRESENTATION BY LDC'S AS BY DONOR NATIONS. SUCH AN ESTIMATE, IF ACCURATE WOULD SEEM TO LEAD TO DEVELOPMENT OF YET ANOTHER FORUM WITH POTENTIAL FOR "HAVE"/"HAVE-NOT" CONFRONTATIONS.

5. CLEARLY, THE FOREGOING DOES NOT FORECLOSE POSSIBILITY OF PROCEEDING WITH CONSULTATIONS/RESOLUTION ALONG LINES OUTLINED REFTEL. HOWEVER, CREATION OF YET ANOTHER UN BODY WITH ONLY BROAD OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES DOES NOT SEEM TO PROMISE ADEQUATE POSITIVE RESULTS IN UNDRO AS ENVISAGED WHEN US FIRST UNDERTOOK SUPPORT AUGMENTATION UNDRO'S COORDINATING CAPACITY. ONE UNDRO NEED SEEMS NOW TO BE FOR MANAGERIAL EXPERTISE SUPPORTED BY EXPERT ADVICE. THUS, WE CONSIDER THAT AS FIRST STEP BERKOL SHOULD BE APPROACHED AND ENCOURAGED TO IDENTIFY AND SEEK SOLUTION TO OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES HIS OFFICE, FIRST IN FIELD OF COORDINATION AND AS EXPERIENCE GROWS IN THAT OF PRE-DISASTER PLANNING. HE MAY WELL BE AMENABLE TO SUGGESTION THAT HE CALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOGETHER ON HIS OWN AD HOC GROUPS OF EXPERTS FROM TIME TO TIME FOR ADVICE ON SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. WHAT MISSION IS SUGGESTING, IN BRIEF, IS THAT ATTENTION BE FOCUSED FIRST ON MAKING UNDRO WORK AND DOING WHATEVER IS FEASIBLE, (INCLUDING IF NECESSARY THE RESOLUTION MENTIONED REFTEL) TO MAKE IT AN OPERATIONAL SUCCESS. ABRAMS

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